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LSU SHREVEPORT

# the Almagest

Volume 46, Issue 8

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## Annual luncheon to recognize author, raise funds for Pioneer Heritage Center

BY BEVERLY GURLEY &  
CHRIS GRAY

Author Mark Salzman will headline the annual Authors in April program benefiting the LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center.

Salzman, who was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction, is the author of many novels including "Iron & Silk," "The Laughing Sutra" and his latest work "Lying Awake." Salzman will speak during a luncheon at the Shreveport Country Club on April 9.

As a child, Salzman wanted to grow up to become a Kung Fu Zen master. At the age of 16 Salzman was accepted to Yale University because of his proficiency on the cello. He graduated in 1982 with a degree in



Mark Salzman

Chinese languages and literature. From 1982 to 1984 Salzman lived in China, teaching English at the Hunan Medical College and studying martial arts. "Iron & Silk," Salzman's first book, was about his experiences during his time in China. This book received the Christopher Award.

Salzman's other talent as a cellist has earned him fame on the soundtrack of many films, including the Academy Award-winning documentary "Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien."

Salzman's most recent work, "Lying Awake," journeys into the depths of one woman's soul and raises questions about power, price and faith. It is the

SEE SALZMAN PAGE 4

## KDAQ under new management

BY DANA SMELSER

Red River Radio, the local National Public Radio affiliate located on the LSUS campus, welcomed Roy Gerritsen as the new general manager.

Gerritsen began his new position on March 1, coming to Shreveport from Penn State University in State College, Penn.

"I researched the area, especially through the Chamber of Commerce," said Gerritsen. "It wasn't a hard decision when I can see a foot of snow outside my window."

Gerritsen describes the talented and committed team at KDAQ as another draw. Arriving during the middle of the 2005 spring fundraising, Gerritsen points to the support of the community, member listeners and area businesses as an

other key factor.

"KDAQ received over \$204,000 in pledges," said Gerritsen. "That total was only beat once before during the fundraiser following 9/11."

With over 38 years of experience in radio, Gerritsen said he looks forward to overseeing operations at Red River Radio.

Born in Mendon, Mich., Gerritsen became interested in music and radio with stints as a disc jockey for junior high sock hops and later as the lead singer for a rock band started in his garage.

Gerritsen financed his college education working for the student radio station at the University of Michigan and later West Michigan State, where he received his B.S. and masters in radio and TV communications.

SEE GERRITSEN PAGE 6

## Kappa Sigma Fraternity see-saw to serve others



ERIC PULSIFER

Volunteers Ben Foster and Rachel Williams play catch as they wrap up their hour of see-sawing Saturday afternoon. Several volunteers took part in 50 hours of non-stop see-sawing to raise money to aid in the construction of the community's first all-inclusive playground.



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### *Corrections*

*No corrections this week.*

### **Editorial Policy**

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

*The Almagest* is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Nikki Mora, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

## MEET THE STAFF

### Staff Reporter

Yo,

For those who don't know me, I'm Derrick Mitcham and I hail from New York. I'm a broadcast journalism major and only have a year left until graduation. If you've spoken to me before then you know I'm crazy and will say anything, so please don't be offended by what I say, which will probably happen more often than not. For those who I do offend, take it how you want to. NY stand up!



## Girls & SPORTS



## *The Almagest* letters policy

*The Almagest* requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

*The Almagest* reserves the right to edit all letters.



# Former House of Blues singer to put on concert for students

BY TERRY HANLEY

LSUS students fond of percussive acoustic rock will have a chance to experience a live performance on campus April 12. Dave Tamkin, an up-and-coming recording artist from Chicago, is bringing his sound to the LSUS campus.

"I love playing the college circuit," said Tamkin of his current two week Southern tour. "It gives me a chance to experience people and places I otherwise would never get to."

Tamkin is a native of Chicago. He attended music school at the University of Southern Ill., but he didn't share the same vision as most of his peers.

"Everyone wanted to be the next Mozart ... all I wanted to do was write songs," said Tamkin.

Tamkin then transferred to Depaul where he received a business-marketing degree.

After graduation, Tamkin

looked for a full-time career in music. He got a job at the House of Blues in 2002 and landed a gig there three nights a week. He recently quit that job because of his rise in popularity on the college scene.

Tamkin, along with playing multiple college venues, plays many off-campus shows on his tours.

Tamkin feels blessed to have met "so many cool people" and to have been able to see the country on his past tours.

"I am trying to get people to hear my music and hold on to it," said Tamkin.

Tamkin has made a name for himself in the Chicago scene, which he describes as a "good community where everyone tries to help one another." He collaborated with fellow local artist Gina Gonzales of Gary Sinese's Lieutenant Dan Band on his first album and hopes to do more in the future with others.

His influences include Chuck Barry, Toad the Wet Sprocket, and Keller Williams—whose sound Tamkin said his style most resembles.

According to LSUS's director of student activities Kimberly Thornton, the Student Activities Board has been making plans to bring more coffeehouse singers to perform for students in the Port.

"SAB is very excited about Dave Tamkin coming and are encouraging all LSUS students, faculty and staff to come watch him perform," said Thornton.

Other stops on his two week tour include Lawrence, Kan., Stillwater, Okla. and Monroe, La.

Tamkin will also perform at 8 p.m. at Centenary College on April 12. The show is open for all ages. Also on April 12, Tamkin will perform at LSUS on the Port stage in the UC during Common Hour.

# Disney may not return to LSUS

BY CARMEN FLETCHER

The Walt Disney World College Program may soon cease recruitment at LSUS. Disney is considering dropping the campus from their recruitment list because of lack of student participation. According to the Director of the LSUS Career Center, Dr. Brian Hirsch, over the past four semesters LSUS student participation in the Disney College Program has dropped dramatically.

"I am a big supporter of the Disney College Program because of the long-term benefits to students," said Hirsch. "Students who participate in the program demonstrate an excellent work ethic, a willingness to learn, and participate in one of the most highly regarded customer service training programs in all of corporate America."

One benefit of participating in the Disney College Program is the chance for students to earn college credit. Students can talk with their academic advisers to get approval for the credit.

Heather Pollard, a junior

psychology major, participated in the program in the spring of 2003.

"It is a fabulous program and I would recommend it to anyone," said Pollard. "It provided me with great experience to add to my resume."

Pollard's experience, gained through working with animals at Disney's Animal Kingdom, is now being put into practice at her new job at Chimp Haven. Pollard was able to put her TOPS and other scholarships on hold for a semester. While earning a college credit, Pollard was making minimum wage and staying at a Disney owned apartment complex. She is now a seasonal employee and returns to the parks whenever she can.

Walt Disney recruiters came to campus Tuesday to meet, possibly for the last time, with students interested in the program. They met at 5 p.m. in the University Center Theatre.

For further information on Walt Disney's College Program, students can log on the their Web site at [www.disneycollegeprogram.com](http://www.disneycollegeprogram.com).

# LSUS to 'Meet the Fockers'

BY DERRICK MITCHAM

The Student Activities Board will be showing the movie "Meet the Fockers" tonight in the University Center mall. The showing will start around 7 p.m., and since it's outside people will need to bring blankets or something else to sit on.

"It's a great way to enjoy spring, plus the movie is really

funny," said Kimberly Thornton, assistant director of student activities.

The movie will be projected on a new inflatable screen that the SAB purchased for future events. The SAB plans to have two more showings that will take place this summer.

"Movie on the Mall is a tradition so we wanted to follow up

with a current movie," said Thornton.

Students seem to be excited about the movie showing tonight. "I'm going because it's something to do, and it's a movie I haven't seen before," said Audrey Moore, management and marketing major.

Some students are planning on taking members of their families with them.

"I'm going to take my children because it's going to be a positive environment for them and allow them to get a taste of college life," said Marie Jones, junior sociology major.

The movie is free and open to the public. Popcorn and drinks will also be given out free of charge.

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an opportunity for people to meet each other and  
Father Doug as well as students interested in  
broadening their Catholic faith.*

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**



## Mom shares daughter's story of rape, depression, suicide

BY CATHERINE MCNAIR

Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know" was blaring from the stereo speaker when Andrea Fuller Cooper and her husband came home early New Year's morning in 1996 to find their daughter Kristin lying on the floor with her journal next to her.

Scattered around Kristin's body were pictures of her ex-boyfriend. Kristin was not breathing. Cooper went to check her only child's pulse when she noticed a gun lying on the floor between Kristin's legs.

Kristin Cooper was 20 years old when she killed herself, initially leaving her parents without an explanation. Andrea Cooper just assumed Kristin killed herself because of her break-up with her boyfriend.

"I knew she was crying a lot," Cooper said. "It's such an important part of healing."

After two weeks of police investigation, Cooper finally got some answers. Kristin's journal provided insight to her emotional state of mind, but it was missing facts. From talking to Kristin's friends, Cooper began piecing together her daughter's secret. It turned out Kristin had been raped by a co-worker she had known for years a few months before she committed suicide.

"I am so glad I have answers," Cooper said. "It's such a relief."

Kristin's journal included a suicide note which she wrote in October. "It's okay she didn't say she was raped," Cooper

said. "It kills me that she didn't share how depressed she was."

Investigators told Andrea that without Kristin's testimony, no charges could be filed. Cooper is fairly certain she knows who raped Kristin. Cooper wrote him a letter in which she said that since he was such good friends with Kristin that he would want to know why she killed herself. He never replied.

Cooper keeps three goals in mind when presenting "Kristin's Story." First, Cooper wants people to realize that they should seek professional help because generally family and friends do not have the skills to help. Second, women need to realize that rape is never their fault. Lastly, Cooper wants men to understand what women go through so they are better able to support and help.

Currently a stigma is attached with rape, depression and suicide Cooper said.

"It's great to have someone who went through it and share it," said Kimberly Thornton, assistant director of student activities.

For Cooper, sharing her daughter's story is a way of keeping Kristin's memory alive and ensuring her death was not in vain. "I love talking about her," Cooper said.

It has been 10 years since Kristin took her own life, and Cooper has shared "Kristin's Story" about 500 times to over 80,000 students. Today, Kristin's journal sits in the bottom dresser drawer as a reminder of the pain of acquaintance rape and the many lives it affects.

Today is Sexual Assault Awareness Day. The YWCA offers the following tips for preventing rape:

- Never leave your drink unattended.
- Do not accept open-container drinks from anyone but a bartender or server.
- Attend parties or bars with a group of friends.
- Watch out for your friends.
- Don't let drugs or alcohol cloud your judgment.
- Communicate your limits firmly and directly.
- Be assertive - don't let anyone violate your space.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in your surroundings, leave.

Rape victims can call the rape crisis hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE for help or contact the Shreveport YWCA Rape Crisis hotline at 222-0556.

**SALZMAN**  
continued from page 1

story of Sister John of the Cross, who is a Carmelite nun. She expresses herself with poetry and essays.

Dr. Marguerite Plummer, Pioneer Heritage Center director, supports the Authors in April program.

"It brings people from the community in to see these authors who would not normally come to Shreveport," said Plummer.

Plummer is also involved

with the Pioneer Heritage Center, which benefits from the Authors in April program. The

*"It brings people from the community in to see these authors who would not normally come to Shreveport."*

Marguerite Plummer  
Director of Pioneer Heritage Center

Center is located on campus, and it preserves the heritage of

the Red River pioneers.

The Center receives funds as a result of the luncheon. This money is used to help keep the facility open and to add more artifacts to their current collection.

The luncheon will be held at noon on April 9 at the Shreveport Country Club. Tickets are on sale for \$40, which includes a \$20 donation to the Pioneer Heritage Center.

For information contact the Pioneer Heritage Center at 797-5332 or 707-5339.

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# Basketball team turns loss into lesson for next season

BY DOMINIQUE HORTON —

Although the LSUS Pilots basketball program has only been in existence for two years, it has already managed to rally a strong fan base on campus.

"I was excited about the addition of both basketball teams because attending the games gives the students something to do and also brings more life to the campus," said Audrey Moore, senior business and marketing major.

This year the Pilots have earned the title of Gulf Coast Athletic Conference champions, have produced some nationally and conference ranked players and have traveled to

Kansas City, Mo., for the NAIA National Tournament. The Pilots also finished the regular season ranked No. 7. Although they were eliminated from the tournament by John Brown University of Arkansas in the second round of play, the team feels the experience has better prepared them for the season ahead.

"This experience can't be put into words," said Head Coach Chad McDowell. "This was a week that each member of the team will remember for the rest of their life. We will cherish that week forever."

While in Kansas the Pilots were able to interact with a group of 50 children at an ele-

mentary school and teach them about the importance of character and sportsmanship. They also took part in a tip-off banquet.

Because all 32 teams participating in the tournament were staying in one hotel, the Pilots were able to meet other teams and develop new friendships, said McDowell.

"Going to the tournament was a good experience; we got a chance to see how other teams communicated," said Justin Collins, #21 for the Pilots. "Although I'm a senior, I know the team will make it to the tournament next year, and they have an excellent opportunity to win it all."

## Sports Update

### Baseball

LSUS 13, Belhaven College 1

LSUS 2, Belhaven College 7

LSUS 2, Belhaven College 1

LSUS 1, Central Arkansas University 6

LSUS 6, Central Arkansas University 4

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LSUS 1, Nicholls State University 4

LSUS 3, Nicholls State University 5

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## Volunteer fair gives students opportunity to get involved

BY SHANDRIKA JACKSON —

LSUS American Humanics program hosted its semi-annual volunteer fair for area non-profit organizations and students to meet and greet.

"We're hoping to get volunteers for all our area non-profits and get our American Humanics program's name out there," said Frances Socha, senior sociology major.

Socha was one of the students that worked the American Humanics program booth.

Socha also said that the volunteer fair has grown from last year. "Our last volunteer fair we only had 13 [non-profit organizations], now we have 30....so it has grown."

It was Paula Linn, from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, first time hearing about and attending the volunteer fair at LSUS.

"We heard about the volunteer fair over a Web site," Linn said. "I'm excited about being here. I have collected 45 volun-

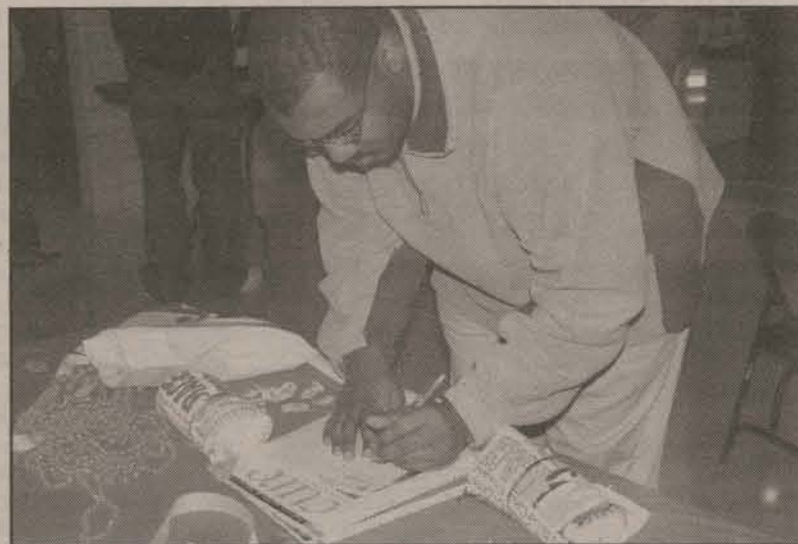
teer applications so I'm very excited about that."

Other first time representatives include Dewanna Lovelace for the Volunteers of America Highland Center LightHouse Program. Lovelace expressed the need for volunteers for her program.

"We have had a problem with consistency with our volunteers in the past....[Today] I want volunteers that will be consistent and are willing to

make a difference in my kid's lives," said Lovelace about her program that serves at-risk youth in the Highland area.

For more information about an organization in attendance at this year's volunteer fair, please contact the Amanda Gouthiere, event coordinator and American Humanics program coordinator in the LSUS Institute for Human Services and Public Policy, at 318-795-4262.



ANDRE MENARD

Roderick Harper, senior Spanish major, signs up to volunteer with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



## Plan focuses on advising

BY DERRICK MITCHAM

Thursday marked the last day of research for the Quality Enhancement Plan on LSUS. The idea behind the QEP is to outline an effective way to improve the advising process for LSUS students.

Students may have noticed surveyors walking around campus asking students questions about aspects of advising. This information will be used to discover ways to make the advising process better.

The administration at LSUS has listened to student complaints about their advising experiences and is attempting to improve on the amount of personal interaction students have with their advisers.

"We don't give professors as much training in advising as we should," said Gloria Raines, vice chancellor. She believes this may be one of the reasons why some advisers and their students have such bad reports.

The institution of the QEP plan is supposed to bring an end to the woes of the students and the professors. It will offer advanced advising techniques to the professors and give students the full educational bene-

fits of proper advising which includes schedule selection, insight into opportunities after graduation and community involvement in a student's field of study.

Some universities have people on staff whose main job is to advise students and point them in the right academic direction. Though LSUS has no such resources, the research obtained from the study will allow students to have access to the same treatment as larger institutions.

The plan is getting mixed reviews from students. "I don't believe you can change advisers' attitudes towards students," said Temper Stokes, sophomore education major. "Maybe the amount of knowledge the advisers have can change but not how they interact with the students."

Dwazendra Smith, sophomore political science major, is more optimistic about the plan. "I've had great experiences with my adviser, but I do believe the QEP plan would greatly enhance the advising experience," said Smith.

The plan will be instituted over the next couple of months but will not be in full swing until fall of next year.

ager for an NPR station at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, which served the St. Louis market. He described this as a niche market.

Red River Radio's mission is much more global, offering a wide variety of programs and news formats. The station has the second largest coverage area in the United States.

## GERRITSEN

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Gerritsen taught radio communications at the University of North Iowa at Cedar Falls and built a student-oriented FM station at West Virginia University.

Prior to Penn State, Gerritsen served as the general man-



ANDRE MENARD

Roy Gerritsen (right) appears with Carl Kasell from National Public Radio at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Red River Radio.

## Dazzlin' Diamonds and cheerleaders face off in basketball game fundraiser

BY KEMISHA WARE

Sociology professor Rhonda Failey might be the biggest Dazzlin' Diamonds fan at LSUS. Her affection for the dance team cost her a week of practice and an hour of humiliation on Tuesday, when she and the Dazzlin' Diamonds participated in a charity basketball game against the LSUS cheerleaders.

"Unfortunately I cannot play, nor have I ever played basketball in my life," said Failey. "I don't possess any basketball skills. Although it is obvious how bad I am, it's for a good cause."

According to Tiffany Johnson, the faculty adviser for the diamonds, the money was needed because the spirit groups "support themselves."

"The spirit groups on campus currently receive no funding from the university," said Johnson, a 2004 LSUS graduate, who danced with the Diamonds last year. "The money will be used to help send the ladies to camp this summer. It will also help them purchase

uniforms and attend other clinics."

Failey wasn't the only LSUS staff member playing in the game. Other LSUS faculty included math professor Judith Covington, and assistant student activities director Kimberly Thornton. According to Failey, not one of the partici-

pants was highly-skilled in basketball.

The basketball game was held during Common Hour Tuesday and was open to all LSUS students and faculty at the cost of \$1. The proceeds were divided between the Dazzlin' Diamonds and the cheerleaders.



DERRICK MITCHAM

Narita Loyd, freshman biology major, makes her way down the court during the fundraising basketball game that took place Tuesday.

## Jason's Flick Picks

BY JASON LIMERICK

### "Sin City"

This is a collection of three of the most messed up stories you'll ever see. Robert Rodriguez, the director, stretched that R rating as far as it would go. There's fornication, castration, cannibalism, serial murder, torture, suicide, child molesters, mercenaries, lots and lots of hookers and loads of killing. The faint of heart should stay away.

These are ultra-violent fairy tales that float through a world of rich '40s style film noir, tempered with the boyish vision of comic book heroes. This is the story of three guys driven to extremes by a corrupt city, inescapable circumstances and, most of all, dames.

I tried to separate myself from the books by Frank Miller. I own them all and have spent more time than I'd care

to admit lost in their pages, but it's almost impossible here. Rodriguez has taken every panel, every bit of dialog, every shot straight from the books. It's the most faithful film adaptation in any medium that I've ever seen.

The strengths of this movie are its staggering creativity and originality and one of the best ensemble casts since "Pulp Fiction." From the scattered and potent traces of color, to the pure white of spilled blood on the black canvas, this is one of a kind.

Every member of this cast is great. The voiceovers could have become campy, but each of the three leads add weight and strength to their secret thoughts. Mickey Rourke, who plays Marv—probably my favorite character in all of Sin City—is grizzled and unstoppable but child-like in his devotion to what's right. Bruce

Willis plays the valiant Hartigan. He is hard and soft and desperate and resolute. Clive Owen is quickly becoming one of my favorite actors. Here he plays Dwight and turns a character I was never really that into, into the guy you want to be. And of course, the dames. The ladies are vicious and raw and hard to take your eyes off of.

A lot of people are going to hate this movie, and a bunch more aren't even going to understand it. It's completely vulgar and violent and unlike anything you've ever seen. It goes straight to my list of favorites, and I can't wait to see it again. I'd recommend it to anyone bored with the ordinary or anyone who just loves a good story.





# Austin's South by Southwest continues to provide steady flow of new artists

BY ERIC PULSIFER

This year's South by Southwest music festival hosted over 1,300 bands in over 50 venues across Austin, Texas from March 16-20. The festival is a must-attend event for music lovers everywhere. From the spastic rhymes of Sri Lankan rapper M.I.A. to the infectious new wave sound of the Futureheads to the in-your-face explosion of noise-rock from the duo that is Death From Above 1979, the festival offers music fans, the media and record executive types a yearly chance to feast at the all-you-can-eat musical buffet that is SXSW. Most of the shows are open to the public while some—like the invite-only Queens of the Stone Age show in an old hangar—are kept a secret unless you happen to be well connected.

I arrived Thursday and be-

gan the festival right with a free show at Emo's. Though the main draw of SXSW are the pricey nighttime showcases, the day offers loads of free shows at most of Austin's venues where free beer and BBQ are used to lure in eager crowds. A majority of the shows one can see at SXSW take place within a few blocks of Emo's where the highest concentration of venues are located, in the Red River District and on the legendary Sixth Street.

As the sun sets behind the Austin skyline, venue doors



RACHEL CONNELL

Death From Above 1979 play a free show at SXSW.

close and lines begin to form. For a common pay-at-the-door attendee like myself this means a couple hours of waiting in order to pay, (usually at least \$20) get in and get a good spot. However, for those with the

\$500 to cough up for badges, lines don't mean a thing. Badges get preference, meaning that everyone with a badge gets in before anyone paying at the door does. This SXSW hierarchy means that (as I found out on a very crowded Saturday night at a very crowded venue) you can be second in line, wait for three hours and watch helplessly as an endless trail of photographers, old men in business suits and Elijah Wood waltz in five minutes before the show while you're left sitting with your head in your hands.

I was more fortunate Thursday night at La Zona

Rosa where I was able to catch one of the festival's hot tickets. The Futureheads, Hot Hot Heat, Louis XIV and Doves put on a show for a packed house. But Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson stole the show, even with an injured ankle.

Without a doubt the most widely seen band this year was Bloc Party. Riding a wave of buzz from Britain, the band played numerous free shows, a couple of invite-only parties and a showcase at Stubb's BBQ.

**SXSW Artists to download:** Death From Above 1979, Kaiser Chiefs, LCD Soundsystem, Louis XIV, The Futureheads, Calla, Dios, Malos, Embrace, The Go! Team, Ash, The Bravery, Aqualung, Kasabian, Kings of Convenience, Phoenix, Say Hi To Your Mom, Ambulance LTD, Nada Surf, Bloc Party, Midlake, Aberfeldy, Jennifer Gentle, Of Montreal, The Dears, Enon, Tegan and Sara, M.I.A.

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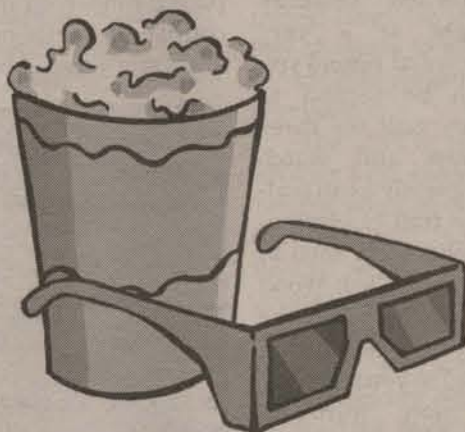
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# Calendar of Events

## Thursday, April 7

SGA Meeting  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
SAB Movie Night  
"Meet the Fockers"  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m.



## Tuesday, April 12

ACJS Meeting  
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Gay Straight Alliance  
10:25 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
SAB - Singer  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
International Fair  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
SAB Meeting  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
College Democrats  
Chat with the Chairman  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Chi Alpha Meeting  
7 p.m.  
UCA Bible Study  
9 p.m.

## Wednesday, April 13

\$1 lunch at BCM  
12 p.m.  
Law Career Forum  
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

## Thursday, April 14

SGA Meeting  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
Coffee House Series #4  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
Metro Bible Study  
8 p.m.

# 'Family Night' opens LSUS to non-students

BY SARAH SWINT

LSUS Student Activities Board entertained over 100 parents and children on "Family Night" Thursday, March 31.

The SAB is known for sponsoring events on campus aimed to entertain LSUS students. The SAB decided to change their target audience after students and staff with children requested more family-oriented events. The SAB answered the request by hosting a "Family Night."

They offered the event free of charge to all LSUS students, faculty, staff and public. They hired several entertainers that performed and amused children by conducting activities specifically aimed at kids. They also chose to invite LSUS organizations to participate in the event.

"A lot of LSUS students and faculty have kids and families," said Kimberly Thornton, assistant director of student activities. "There were a lot of requests for SAB to do something that would include the families of students."

The SAB offered several activities. There was a 45 minute show with Shana Banana, a children's entertainer, which involved participation of children in singing and dancing.

Mike da Roving Guy, an animal balloon artist, was also a part of the festivities. He provided all the children with his animal

balloons while walking on stilts.

"Mike and Shana were so good, and the children loved them," said Thornton.

Several LSUS organizations were involved in "Family Night" as well. LAESP provided face painting for the children and also provided games of musical chairs. They provided several prizes to the winners. The Biology Club provided a duck pond game. The children picked a duck and received the prize that went along with the duck they chose. The Chemistry Club did experiments that involved participation of the children.

Along with the entertainment aimed solely for children, the SAB provided beverages and snacks that were known to be children's favorites. Among those favorites provided were popcorn, cotton candy and fruit drinks.

"Family Night" provided a chance for the SAB to do something a little different. The organization was excited about getting families involved on campus. The SAB hopes to plan another event specifically for family.

"The parents and children had a great time as well as SAB members," said Thornton.



Mary Ding enjoys cotton candy while she and her mother watch a performance by Shana Banana at Ultimate Family Night. The skit was one of many activities planned for students and their families as well as members of the community.

ANDRE MENARD